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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT 1. Nationality Situation in the Georgian SSR NO. OF PAGES 5  
 2. Georgian Language and Literature  
 3. Georgian Nationalist Attitudes and Aspirations

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [redacted] national minority groups in the Georgia SSR  
 percentage distribution of various nationalities in the population.

Percentage Distribution of the Peoples of the Georgian SSR<sup>1</sup>.  
 (Population in Thousands as of 1939)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Language Used</u>	<u>Religion</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Georgian	South Caucasian	Christian	2,230 <sup>a</sup>	61.5
Armenian	Indo-European	Christian	410	11.7
Abkhaz	North Caucasian	Muslim	490	2.5
Adzhar	South Caucasian	Muslim	160 <sup>b</sup>	4.5
Azerbaijani	South Turkic	Muslim	190	5.3
Ossetian	Iranian	Muslim	150	4.2

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Name	Language Used	Religion	Population	Percentage of Total
Russian	Indo-European	Christian	320	9.0
Others (Greek, Jewish, etc. ...)			50	1.3
Total			3,600	100

the Russian group of the population could be further subdivided roughly into thirds: one-third Great Russians, one-third Ukrainians, and one-third Kubans (Kubantsi or Kuban Cossacks). Many of the latter, who spoke a combination of Russian and Ukrainian, had resettled in Georgia following the hardships of collectivization in the Kuban.

2. 90% of the responsible positions at all levels of government and industry (with the exception of the Army) were held by Georgians. Armenians, Jews, or Russians occupied the remainder. At the Tkvarcheli Coal Mines Trust, however, the Division of Workers' Supply (Otdel Rabochevo Snabzheniya), two of the ten responsible positions were held by non-natives of the Georgian SSR. These were two Russians who held the posts of chief accountant and chief of the planning division. 25X1

3. Regarding the Army, 20 - 30% of the officers, but only 10 - 15% of the enlisted men of Soviet Army units stationed in Georgia were of Georgian nationality. it was the usual practice for Georgian inductees to be sent to other parts of the Soviet Union for training and duty but some enlisted men and many officers were able to arrange for reassignment to Georgia. on the other hand 80% of the MGB positions in the Georgian SSR were occupied by Georgians but the MGB and MVD troops were all pure Russians. the absence of Georgians among the MGB and MVD troops was explained by the fact that the authorities thought it desirable that the security troops should be composed primarily of individuals of different racial composition than the local population and who would have fewer opportunities for developing ties of friendship and understanding with them. the Russians made more reliable security troops than Georgians because the Russians obey orders more automatically and more unthinkingly than Georgians, who are more inclined to thoughtfulness and less inclined to police activities. 25X1

4. 60% of the laborers in heavy industry were Georgians and 30% were Russians, except in the coal industry where the percentages were reversed. the original contingents of laborers for the Georgian coal mines had been recruited from the Donbas coal basin and these contingents had been frequently refreshed by new recruits from other Russian coal mining areas. 25X1

5. not more than 20% of the workers in light industry were Russians, except in the leather industry where 70% were Armenians and Georgians, while Russians made up the remaining 30%. 25X1

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6. On state farms, mainly the tea and citrus plantations, 20 - 30% of the workers were Russians. There were only a very few Russian villages in Georgia and consequently very few collective farms in which the labor force was predominantly Russian.
7. Russian was the language of instruction in approximately 20% of the middle schools in Georgia, while the Georgian language was used for instruction in the remainder, except for an insignificant number of Armenian, Turkish (Azerbaijani) and Jewish schools and except for schools in the "autonomous" areas within the Georgian SSR which used the local languages. [redacted] many Georgians preferred to attend schools in which Russian was the language of instruction. If they received certificates of graduation from such schools they could practice their specialties almost any place in the Soviet Union. Thus they had wider opportunities than those who received their instruction in the Georgian language. 25X1
8. In Georgian schools, the study of Russian was required beginning in the second or third grade. Of the eleven institutes of higher education in Tbilisi, including the State University, instruction was given separately in both the Russian and Georgian languages, with the possible exception of the faculty of Oriental Studies of the State University. [redacted] the level of instruction might be higher in the Georgian "sectors" of these institutes than in the Russian "sectors" since the really first-rate Russian professors probably preferred to remain in Moscow, meaning that Tbilisi institutes had mostly second-rate Russian professors and first-rate Georgian professors. 25X1
9. [redacted] all organizations were required to use the Russian language for communicating with any institution of a different nationality area. Thus, correspondence with agencies in Moscow or with any institutions directly subordinate to ministries in Moscow, or with any Soviet Republic, autonomous republic, krai or oblast, would be conducted in Russian.
10. Purely local organizations of the Georgian Republic or of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast or the Adzhara Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic conducted their local business among themselves and with their subordinate units in their respective languages, but used Russian to communicate with each other. In the Abkhaz ASSR, however, Russian was widely used in most institutions down to the village level, where the village council (selski soviet) might be conducted in the native language. Unlike the other governmental units in the Georgian SSR, the court system in the Abkhaz ASSR was conducted in Russian instead of the local language, but, as in the other units, litigants were entitled to request that court actions be conducted in their native tongue or that they be provided with an interpreter. [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] Russian was used so extensively in the Abkhaz ASSR because the Abkhaz language had nothing in common with any other local language and perhaps with any known language.  
 [redacted] the above-described arrangement concerning languages was tantamount to a general obligation for all but the lowest-level officials to know Russian. It tended to encourage mastery of the Russian language by national minority citizens who wished to improve their situations by working in other than the strictly local institutions which did not conduct business with organizations of a different nationality group.
11. [redacted] Russians [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] in Georgia [redacted] The "clannishness" or the

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Georgians plus the fact that they occupied the great majority of responsible positions gave the Georgians a substantial advantage over the Russians.

12. [redacted] no manifestations of hostility or animosity between Russians and Georgians [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] however [redacted] Georgians tended to look down upon most other nationalities [redacted] there was a definite coolness in their attitude to and relations with the Russians and specifically that they tended not to associate with Russians socially. [redacted] the attitude of many Georgians was that the "Russians work hard and like it and we Georgians do not like to work, so let the Russians do it". 25X1
13. Regarding the Georgian language [redacted] it had not been Russified to any extent at all. [redacted] Party organs had conducted considerable work toward the "purification" of the Georgian language, attempting to rid it of archaic and foreign words. [redacted] the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party had made a report on this subject sometime in 1950. Nonetheless, many foreign words continued to be used in the Georgian language. A glance at the Georgian newspapers would show [redacted] the extent to which foreign, mostly European, words continued to be used. [redacted] the Georgians have not adopted many standard Soviet phrases in their Russian form but have their own words for such terms as "collective farm", "state farm" and "communist". 25X1
14. [redacted] Georgian history had been modified to conform to changing Soviet standards of interpretation to the same extent as the history of other areas of the USSR. He was unable to recall any specific examples of such distortion, commenting that he was not a student of Georgian history. 25X1
15. Although there was no hatred for the Russian people [redacted] almost all Georgians opposed the complete domination exercised over Georgia by the present Soviet regime in Moscow. [redacted] this feeling was strongest among the peasants and the intelligentsia.) In this connection [redacted] many people tended to believe that the Russians had brought communism to Georgia and imposed it on the people. [redacted], 25X1
- [redacted] there was no hatred for the Russian people but there was hatred for their government. [redacted] "the independence of a country is not robbed by a neighboring people but by the rulers of the neighboring people". [redacted] thinking people in Georgia shared this idea 25X1
- [redacted] the strong hatred of Russians which existed before and for some time after the imposition of communism, had been largely transferred to hatred of the Soviet Government. [redacted] many Georgians now realized that the Russian people "were just as great fools as we". [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] Georgians, historically, had a tenacious love of freedom and independence. Although they had never pursued the conquest of their neighbors, they had frequently been subjected to attacks from their neighbors. [redacted] the Georgians [redacted] a friendly, hospitable, and easy-going people who did not like to engage in denunciation and espionage. [redacted] they had a well-developed inclination and ability to avoid strict 25X1

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fulfillment of harsh laws and a sense of tolerance of such evasiveness amongst their associates, noting that if a Georgian learned that someone was making money in a not entirely legal fashion he would be inclined to say: "Well, let him, and may he prosper".

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It was these characteristics which enabled Georgians to develop what a "silent opposition" to the Soviet regime.

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the Georgians had submitted to various compulsory forms of the Soviet state but, whenever they could, had conducted themselves and their business as they always had. Cutting corners and evading the letter of the law were widespread practices in Georgia

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no organized movement of resistance to the Soviet regime existed in Georgia

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any kind of an effort toward organized opposition or toward the formation of some sort of non-communist organization was nipped in the bud by the most cruel and harsh measures".

16.

the economies

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of Georgia and the other various national minority areas in the USSR were so intertwined and interdependent that the majority of the people in these areas - when and if they were given a real opportunity to express their wishes - would favor a federal system which would guarantee equal rights to all members and would preclude complete domination from Moscow.

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